

## Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/847,942

Confirmation No.: 6169

Filed: 2 May 2001

For: PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE FIBERS WITH A REINFORCING MATERIAL

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sub C/ BT cont

adhesive component;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprises about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of minimicrofibrous organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m<sup>2</sup> has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of the load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

B2 sub C/

14. (AMENDED) The pressure sensitive adhesive fiber of claim 10 wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive component comprises a polymer derived from at least one alkyl (meth)acrylate ester monomer selected from isooctyl acrylate, 2-ethyl-hexyl acrylate, and n-butyl acrylate, and at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and acrylamide.

sub C/ B3

17. (AMENDED) A pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprising:

a pressure sensitive adhesive component; and

a reinforcing material comprising a metallocene-catalyzed polyolefin within the pressure sensitive adhesive component;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprises about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of the reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m<sup>2</sup> has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of the load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

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19. (AMENDED) A pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprising:  
a pressure sensitive adhesive component comprising a crosslinked acrylate copolymer, wherein the crosslinked acrylate copolymer comprises copolymerized monomers comprising at least one monoethylenically unsaturated alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer, at least one monoethylenically unsaturated free-radically copolymerizable reinforcing monomer having a homopolymer glass transition temperature higher than that of the alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer; and

a reinforcing material comprising a metallocene-catalyzed polyolefin within the pressure sensitive adhesive component;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprises about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of the reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m<sup>2</sup> has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of the load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

20. (AMENDED) A pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprising:  
a pressure sensitive adhesive component; and  
an organic polymeric reinforcing material within the pressure sensitive adhesive component, wherein the organic polymeric reinforcing material has a yield strength of no greater than about 20 MPa and an elongation at break of at least about 50%;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprises about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight percent of the organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m<sup>2</sup> has a maximum load

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of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of the load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.